

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070936 TOSEC 030136
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ARA: TTODMAN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070936 TOSEC 030136

NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ACTING SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CU, US

SUBJECT: CUBANS INVITE US TO CONTINUE FISHERY AND
MARITIME BOUNDARY TALKS IN HAVANA

1. FIRST PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBANS ON FISHERIES
AND MARITIME BOUNDARIES ENDED MARCH 29. CUBANS HAVE
RESERVED ON RELATIVELY MINOR POINTS AND THERE ARE A FEW
PROBLEMS WE MUST WORK OUT ON OUR SIDE. BASICALLY, HOWEVER,
PROGRESS WAS ENCOURAGING AND AMBASSADOR TODMAN BELIEVES WE
WILL BE READY TO SIGN BOTH GIFA AND PROVISIONAL MARITIME
BOUNDARY AGREEMENT WITH CUBANS AT NEXT ROUND.

2. AT CLOSING SESSION ON MARCH 29, CHIEF OF CUBAN
DELEGATION, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PELEGRIN TORRAS,
UNDER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT, INVITED
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AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND THE US DELEGATION TO CONTINUE THE TALKS
IN HAVANA BEGINNING APRIL 20. TORRAS SAID INVITATION WAS
MEANT TO DEMONSTRATE CUBA'S SATISFACTION WITH WAY THE TALKS
HAVE PROCEEDED SO FAR. HE ASKED THAT US SIDE REPLY AS SOON
AS IT COULD THROUGH THE CUBAN UN MISSION CHANNEL.

3. WE BELIEVE CUBANS PROBABLY COULD HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENTS AT END OF FIRST ROUND. THEY MAY WELL HAVE INSISTED ON CONSULTING WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT BEFORE DOING SO LARGELY SO AS TO CARRY TALKS INTO SECOND ROUND, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE PRETEXT TO INVITE US TO HAVANA AND SO THE AGREEMENTS WOULD BE SIGNED THERE RATHER THAN IN NEW YORK.

4. RECOMMENDATION: IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE CUBANS ENGAGED. VISIT OF FIRST AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO HAVANA SINCE 1961, MOREOVER, SHOULD HELP IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE AND MOVE PROCESS FURTHER ALONG. FAILURE TO ACCEPT COULD RAISE SUSPICIONS IN HAVANA CONCERNING SINCERITY OF OUR INTENTIONS AND BE ARGUED THAT WE ARE ONLY WILLING TO MEET ON OUR OWN CONDITIONS. I WILL AUTHORIZE TODMAN TO ACCEPT UNLESS YOU OR THE PRESIDENT HAVE DIFFERENT VIEW.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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